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SMALL POSITIVE GROWTH LIKELY IN FY21: RANGARAJAN

Despite lockdown, agri and essential goods/services were fully operational in Q1, ex-RBI governor C Rangarajan said

ABOVE PAR PERFORMANCE NOT RULED OUT

Rangarajan and EY India chief policy advisor D K Srivastava in a paper stated though many have projected a sharp GDP contraction in 2020-21, there are reasons to believe the outcome may be much better. "Agriculture and related sectors, public administration and defence services may perform normally or better than normal," the paper said

FOREIGN INVESTMENT ANOTHER FACTOR

- Given the current geopolitical situation, Central and state governments have become more active in attracting investment from abroad, which could push growth, the paper noted
- It added reforms in corporate tax rates in 2019-20 will also facilitate the relocation of various production platforms to India

-23.9%

RECORD CONTRACTION IN INDIA'S GDP GROWTH IN THE 1ST QTR OF FY21

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India sees 90k new Covid cases, tally over 4.1 mn

Overtakes Brazil to become 2nd worst-hit country, but recovery rate improves to 77%

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

INDIA'S fresh Covid-positive count kept going North, with a record 90,632 new cases reported on Sunday morning. The overall case tally crossed 4.13 million, which took it past Brazil as the country with the second highest coronavirus cases. According to the World Health Organisation, Brazil has 40.41 lakh infected people.

On the positive side, as many as 31,80,865 people have recuperated so far, improving the national recovery rate to 77.32 per cent.

"For the second successive day, India has clocked a record recovery of more than 70,000 patients in a single day. 73,642 patients have recovered and been discharged from either home/facility isolation or hospitals in the last 24 hours," the Union Health Ministry said in its advisory.

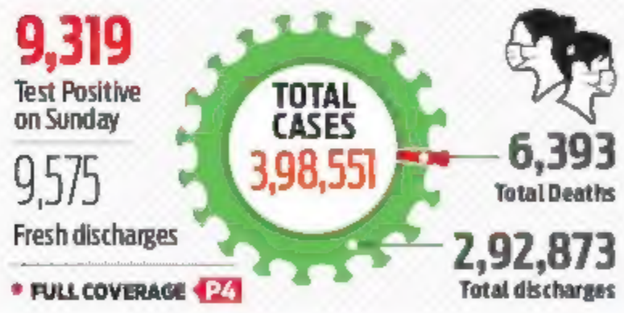
While the total coronavirus cases rose to 41,13,811, the toll was at 70,626 (over 70% of them due to co-morbidities) — with 1,065 deaths in the last 24 hours — bringing down the case fatality rate to 1.72%. As of 8 am on Sunday, there were 8,62,320 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country, which is 20.96% of the total caseload.

To help states contain the virus spike, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan spoke to health secretaries of five states and one Union Territory on the management of Covid in 35 districts under their jurisdiction.

Four of these districts are in West Bengal, 17 in Maharashtra; all 11 in Delhi and one each in Gujarat, Puducherry and Jharkhand.

Also, the Health Ministry has decided to deploy high level Central teams to Punjab and Chandigarh where cases are ballooning. The teams will be stationed there for 10 days.

Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has proposed in the Supreme Court that full refund shall be provided by airlines immediately for tickets booked during the Covid lockdown period for domestic or international travel within the lockdown period. **P7**



KESAVANANDA BHARATI SRIPADAGALVARU DECEMBER 9, 1940 – SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

LONGEST HEARD CASE

The case of Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala was heard for 68 days and continues to hold the top spot for the longest proceedings ever to have taken place in the top court. The Ayodhya land dispute case is the closest case in terms of longest day-to-day hearing.

Edneer Mutt seer who saved Constitution's basic structure

GEORGE POIKAYIL AND KANU SARDA @ Kasaragod / New Delhi

KESAVANANDA Bharati Sripadagalvaru, the Hindu seer whose petition in the Supreme Court led to the judgment that Parliament cannot alter the fundamental structure of the Constitution, died at his mutt in Kasaragod on Sunday.

Bharati, the pontiff of Edneer Mutt, died of heart ailment at 12.40 am, said his former manager and legal advisor I V Bhat. He was 79.

A week ago, Bharati was admitted to a hospital in Mangaluru. "He had a condition in his heart valve and the doctors advised surgery. But he returned to his mutt saying he could not stay away from the daily rituals," said Bhat.

Bharati's nephew Jayarama Manjathaya, anointed as the new seer of Edneer Mutt, led the funeral rites. Bharati was interred in the mutt on Sunday, following Covid protocols.

The seer had become a beacon of constitutional rights and found a place in law school syllabus when he challenged the constitutionality of the Kerala government's Land Reforms Act in the SC in 1970.

He lost the case, but his writ petition led to the adoption of the landmark Basic Structure Doctrine. The apex court ruled that Parliament cannot alter the fundamental structure of the Constitution.

The verdict involved 13 judges — the largest bench ever to sit in the apex court till date. The case was heard for 68 days and continues to hold the top spot for the longest proceedings ever to have taken place in SC.

The Ayodhya land dispute case is the closest case in terms of longest day-to-day hearing.

It's also the most cited constitutional case in Indian constitutional law. **P5**

EXPRESS READ

Central team to assess flood damage today

Bengaluru An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT), with Home, Finance, Agriculture, Jal Shakti, Roads/Highways and PWD department officials, will visit Karnataka on Monday to assess the flood damage. **P5**

IPL schedule out, MI to face CSK in opener

Dubai: The BCCI on Sunday released the schedule for the upcoming IPL, and in keeping with tradition, defending champions Mumbai Indians will take on runners-up Chennai Super Kings in the opener in Abu Dhabi on September 19. **P11**

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAREER DIGEST edex
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID), 4 OF CITY EXPRESS

3 police teams hunt for Aditya Alva; NCB to quiz councillor's son

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Central Crime Branch police, who have filed an FIR naming 12 people, including actress Ragini Dwivedi, in the Sandalwood drug racket case, have formed three special teams to track down Aditya Alva, the accused number 6, in the case. Aditya, son of former minister Jeevaraj Alva, has so far been untraced.

Ragini, who was arrested on Friday, was quizzed for over four hours on Sunday. Sources said she was mostly tight-lipped, but gave a statement that her friend Ravishankar, an RTO employee, was forcing her to take drugs whenever she attended parties. Meanwhile, her advocates have approached the courts for bail. The CCB is also questioning Viren Khanna, a drug dealer arrested from New Delhi, on how he established his network in Bengaluru and other cities of the Karnataka.

In another development, the Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) Mumbai Zone has summoned Yashas K, the son of BBMP Corporator S Keshavamurthy, in connection with an investigation in a drugs case. He has been asked to depose before it in Mumbai on Monday. **REPORTS | P3, 5**

Rijiju confirms five youths in PLA custody

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Guwahati

UNION Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday virtually confirmed that the five "abducted" Arunachal Pradesh youth were in the custody of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) as he said the Indian Army had sent a hotline message to its Chinese counterpart.

"The Indian Army has already sent hotline message to the counterpart PLA establishment at the border point in Arunachal Pradesh. Response is awaited," Rijiju, who hails from Arunachal, tweeted.

The youth from the state's Upper Subansiri district were allegedly abducted by the PLA at the LAC after they had ventured out in the jungle for hunting. The incident came to light after two other villagers, who escaped, revealed it on Friday.

Arunachal police say such incidents do occur in that district.

BIGGEST HAUL

Seized sub-standard seeds coated with harmful chemicals

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

HARMFUL chemicals, which can cause serious health issues in both humans and animals, were used to coat thousands of tons of sub-standard seeds which were seized a few months ago, lab reports have revealed.

During the lockdown in April and May, Agriculture Department officials had seized 16,510 bags of maize seeds and 721 bags of sunflower seeds, altogether weighing about 10,000 quintals and worth ₹5.91 crore. This is said to be the biggest seizure by the department in such a short time. Cases were registered at Haveri, Ballari, Hubballi and Dharwad. Under the Seeds Act, 1996, Agriculture Department inspectors can seize fake/sub-standard seeds and initiate action against offenders.

In nine cases registered, 40 of the 65 offenders have been arrested. "The lab reports in six of these cases said chemicals like Thiamethoxam, Imidacloprid and Metal oxide had been coated on the seeds. We are yet to receive reports in three more cases," a police officer, who is part of the investigation, told *The New Indian Express*. "As part of the investigation, we had sought the opinion of experts, who say that these chemicals are harmful for human being and animals," the officer said.

When contacted, Agriculture Minister B C Patil confirmed that the seized stocks of seeds were chemically treated. "There has been progress in the investigation over the last four months and the chargesheet will be filed soon. We will take it to the logical end," he said. **P5**

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B C Patil, Agriculture Minister, Karnataka

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